GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4649
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
CONCEPT OF LAND BANK
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the concept of 'Land Bank' per se to simplify the process of compensatory afforestation for lands acquired for coalfields;

(b) whether this concept has actually been implementated;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which such concept is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a): Compensatory afforestation is allowed to be raised on equivalent non-forest land or degraded forest land twice in extent of forest area being diverted. The user agency has to deposit the amount for compensatory afforestation with the concerned State Government on receiving the demand and the actual transfer / use of forest land is effected only after the receipt of the demanded amount.

(b): Yes, Sir. The State government of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have identified degraded forest land in their States for compensatory afforestation of central projects in their respective States. The pool of degraded forest land in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan is also available for the Central Government projects of other States if the concerned State Governments fail to identify the requisite land. The Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation), State Forest Department identifies the pool of such degraded forest lands in consultation with the concerned Chief Conservator of Forests (C), Regional Officers of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Compensatory afforestation scheme is prepared by the Forest Department of the concerned State Government and on receipt of demand the coal companies deposit the amount in favour of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

(c): Delay in identifying and transferring suitable equivalent non-forest land to the concerned Forest Department has reduced to some extent.

(d): Does not arise.
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